

Amendments to the specification

Page 1, amend the "Cross Reference to a Related Application" as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/669,503 filed on September 25, 2000 by Prabuddha Biswas and Raja Chatterjee, now U.S. Patent 6,594,666 issued on July 15, 2003.

Amend the paragraph at the bottom of page 6 and extending to page 7 as follows:

The selection and combining tool 140 may take form of a ~~visually~~ visual control, such as a dialog box for displaying a hierarchical list of the system defined regions, that further permits the user to form a new, user-defined region by selecting a group of system defined regions. Thus, a region described as "The Chicago Metropolitan Region" may be formed by selecting counties in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin from the system defined region table, and the combining tool would automatically compute the geometry of the resulting user defined area using, for example, the spatial geometry manipulation tools in Oracle Spatial described below. The selection and combining tool 140 preferably includes means for presenting the descriptive portion of the system defined region data in the table 142 to the user in an easily navigable form, such as an expandable outline or set of nested folders of the type used to display hierarchical directory and file names in a file system.

Page 17, amend the "Abstract of the Disclosure" as follows:

A shareable application program interface infrastructure which is used in combination with a relational database to provide data storage and processing functions for location-dependent objects, and includes a mechanism for easily associating an object, such a service, with a geographic region, such as an area served by the service. The service designer is provided with a tool to choose a geographic region or a point location (specified by an address), and to associate that selected geographic region with a service. Each service is associated with a geographic region chosen from a hierarchy of predetermined system-defined regions that are preferably organized into a hierarchy composed of levels organized in order of decreasing size so that the boundaries of each child region lie within the boundaries of its parent region. The services designer is also provided with the option of creating "user defined regions" that are

composed of existing system defined regions or a region centered around a selected location. The user-defined region could represent business objects that relate to a particular entity; for example, a set of sales regions served by different regional sales offices.